

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 04599 250929Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 /078 W

----- 114658

R 250913Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9580

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4599

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AG MO UR SS

SUBJECT: REPORTED SOVIET SPONSORED DEAL ON WESTERN SAHARA

REF: MOSCOW 13145

1. WE ARE INCLINED TO VIEW THE "SOVIET-SPONSORED DEAL" DESCRIBED IN REFTEL AS FEEDBACK FROM STANDARD LINES WHICH THE TWO CONTENDING PARTIES HAVE PUT OUT OVER THE PAST MONTHS. THE ALGERIAN EMBASSY HERE, FOR EXAMPLE, REGULARLY PASSED ALONG TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN THAT IF MOROCCO WERE ONLY TO RATIFY THE 1972 TREATY "EVERYTHING" COULD BE SETTLED BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO. THE IDEA OF A PACKAGE DEAL INVOLVING MOROCCO'S RATIFICATION OF THE BORDER TREATY IN RETURN FOR ALGERIAN ACCESSION TO ITS SAHARA OCCUPATION IS NOT NEW. IN FACT JUST ABOUT EVERY ONE OF THE WOULD-BE MEDIATORS WHO HAS PARADED THROUGH HERE IN RECENT MONTHS HAS ENVISIONED SUCH STEPS AS PART OF HIS MEDIATION PACKAGE. INDEED, ALONG WITH SOME FORMULATION OF JOINT EXPLORATION OF THE GARA DJEBILET IRON DEPOSITS (FOR WHICH AN UNRATIFIED BILATERAL TREATY ALSO EXISTS), THE PROPOSAL DOES STRIKE THE CASUAL OBSERVER AS AN EMINENTLY REASONABLE SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.

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PAGE 02 RABAT 04599 250929Z

2. THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS THAT NEITHER
REGIME TRUSTS THE OTHER FOLLOWING A SERIES OF ABORTIVE
AGREEMENTS, STALLED MEDIATION ATTEMPTS AND PERCEIVED BROKEN
PROMISES. IF HASSAN HAS RECENTLY TOLD ANYONE THAT HE WOULD GIVE
UP HIS TINDOUF CLAIM IN RETURN FOR ALGERIAN COOPERATION ON THE
SAHARA WE HAVE NOT HEARD IT - INDEED IT WOULD SURPRISE US.
ANDERSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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